

COLEOPHORA MACHINELLA BRADLEY:
ITS REDISCOVERY IN ENGLAND,
AND DESCRIPTION.

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By JOHN R. LANGMAID*

On 15th June 1977 I collected nearly twenty Coleophorid cases from *Achillea ptarmica* in Botley Wood, Hampshire. The larvae continued to feed for a further two weeks and then pupated. Moths emerged during the latter half of July. One of them was larger than all the others and proved, on examination of the genitalia, to be *Coleophora trochilella* Duponchel. The others were identified later the same year as *C. machinella* Bradley by Mr. R. W. J. Uffen after he and Rev. D. J. L. Agassiz has made preparations of the male and female genitalia (figures 1 and 2).

The larval case is 8mm long, made of silk, slenderly cylindrical and trivalved, ochreous-brown, paler caudally. The mouth-opening is at 60° to the long axis, and there is a distinct 'neck'. The larva mines the leaves of the foodplant from underneath, and wanders freely from leaf to leaf.

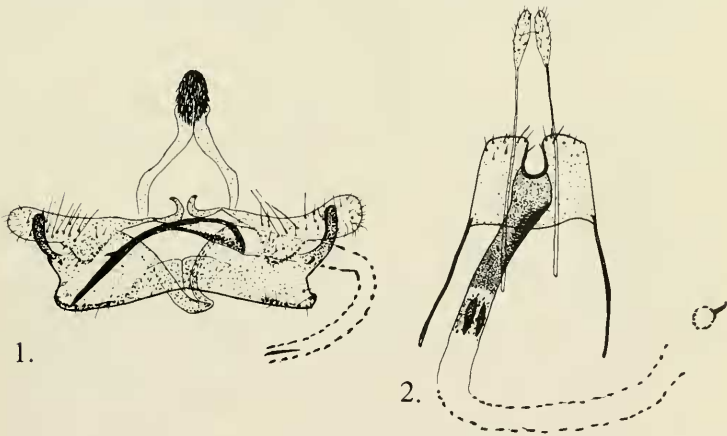


Fig. 1. Male genitalia of *Coleophora machinella* Bradley. Fig. 2. Female genitalia of *C. machinella*.

The moth is similar to *trochilella*, but smaller, with a wingspan of 10-11 mm. Head fuscous, ochreous tinged, paler laterally; antenna white, sharply ringed black; labial palpus whitish above, mixed with ochreous-brown at sides and underneath; thorax and tegula whitish ochreous; legs whitish above, dark fuscous beneath; forewing brownish ochreous, darker toward apex, the male being distinctly darker than the female, a white streak along costa to near apex, veins from cell marked with white streaks toward apex, a

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white streak along fold and another along dorsum to termen, cilia greyish ochreous; hindwing dark grey in the male, paler in the female, cilia grey tinged with ochreous; abdomen dark grey.

The species was originally discovered by the late Mr. W. Machin in the early 1880's bred from larvae feeding on *Artemisia maritima* from saltings on the Thames Estuary, and was named *maritimella*. Subsequently it was placed on the Thames Estuary, and was named *maritimella*. Subsequently it was placed in the synonymy of *trochilella* (Bradley 1966), and then renamed *machinella* after further examination of the genitalia of Machin's specimens (Bradley 1971).

Since 1977 further cases have been found in Botley Wood, and in West Walk, Wickham, Hampshire, from late May to early July. In late July 1977 two specimens were taken flying among *Achillea ptarmica* at Ditchling Common, Sussex, by Lt. Col. A. M. Emmet, and in 1981 Mr. R. Fairclough found cases on Ashtead Common, Surrey. In 1980 Mr. Uffen rediscovered the species in North Kent feeding on *Artemisia maritima*. In 1981 moths were bred from this foodplant, and it is notable that they are distinctly paler than those bred from *Achillea ptarmica*. Although the sexual dichroism is also apparent in these, the males are approximately the same colour as the females from *Achillea ptarmica*, and the females are paler still, the forewing ground colour being pale ochreous yellow.

Acknowledgments

My thanks are due to Mr. R. W. J. Uffen for identifying the specimens, and to Rev. D. J. L. Agassiz for the drawings of the genitalia.

References

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THE DEATH'S-HEAD HAWKMOTH AND CONVULVULUS HAWKMOTH IN KENT IN 1981. — A female Death's-head Hawkmoth (*Acherontia atropos* L.) was seen in my sister-in-law's neighbour's garden in Dover, but the latter was too frightened to go near it. Fortunately, however, my sister-in-law recognised it as a moth and put a container over it and called me. The date was the 28th September.

On the same date as the above, a female *Herse convolvuli* L. was brought to my home by a friend who found it alive while working on a building in Folkestone that day. This same friend also brought me another *H. convolvuli*, a very worn male, which he had found on 1st October on the same site in Folkestone. — R. F. BUDDLE, 72, Alfred Road, Dover, Kent.